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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/990,341	11/20/2001	Scott Montgomery	268/262	2692
34313	7590	02/24/2006	EXAMINER	
ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE, LLP IP PROSECUTION DEPARTMENT 4 PARK PLAZA SUITE 1600 IRVINE, CA 92614-2558			ABDI, KAMBIZ	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3621	
DATE MAILED: 02/24/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/990,341

Applicant(s)

MONTGOMERY ET AL.

Examiner

Kambiz Abdi

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-64 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-64 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

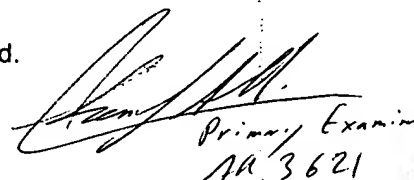
Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


Primary Examiner
AR 3621

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 0/8/31/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 3621

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-64 are considered.
 - Claims 14, 39, and 60 have been amended.
 - No new claims have been added.
 - No claim Has been canceled.
2. The current examiner withdraws the allowable subject matter that was indicated by the previous examiner. The rejection below is a non-final rejection.
3. The examiner withdraws the claim rejection under 35 USC § 112 2nd paragraph after amendments by the applicant.

Drawings

4. The new replacement formal drawings were received on 31 August 2005. These drawings are replacing the original informal drawings originally submitted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the

Art Unit: 3621

examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 1-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,005,945 to Harry Whitehouse in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0209976 to William F. Bailey.

8. As for claim 1, Whitehouse clearly discloses a method of indexing a postage indicium within a database of a centralized postage-issuing computer system, the method comprising:

- generating a postage indicium associated with a mail piece (See Whitehouse column 2, lines 1-52);
- associating an indexing tracking ID with the postage indicium (See Whitehouse column 2, lines 43-52, column 13, lines 15-65 and column 14, line 66- column 15, line 17); and
- storing the indexed postage indicium within the database (See Whitehouse column 8, line 4- column 9, line 31, column 10, line 45- column 11, line 36).

What is not specific by the Whitehouse is the associating an indexing tracking ID with the postage indicium. However, Bailey clearly teaches that the tracking information such as a unique tracking ID is generated and stored in a database for identification of the mail piece (See Bailey paragraphs [0023]-[0025], and [0029]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the current invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Bailey into that of Whitehouse for enhancing and speeding the lookup and identification of related information to that of the data associated with the indicium.

9. As for claim 2, Whitehouse and Bailey disclose the method of claim 1, wherein the indexing tracking ID is unique within a postal service (See Whitehouse column 6, lines 1-18, column 10, line 45- column 11, line 29, column 13, lines 15-65 and column 21, lines 11-48).

Art Unit: 3621

10. As for claim 3, Whitehouse and Bailey disclose the method of claim 2, wherein the postal service is the United States Postal Service (See Whitehouse column 6, lines 1-18).

11. As for claim 4, Whitehouse and Bailey disclose the method of claim 1, wherein the postage indicium comprises one or more items selected from the group consisting of postage amount, date and time of postage information creation, service class, optional data advance, and delivery zip code (See Whitehouse column 13, lines 19-46).

12. As for claim 5, Whitehouse and Bailey disclose the method of claim 1, further comprising:
deriving a digital signature from the postage indicium (See Whitehouse column 13, lines 15-65 and column 14, line 66- column 15, line 17);

associating the digital signature with the postage indicium to generate an indexed self-validating postage indicium (See White house column 13, lines 15-65 and column 17, line 60- column 18, line 11);
and

storing the indexed self-validating postage indicium within the centralized postage-issuing computer system (See Whitehouse column 8, line 4-column 9, line 31, column 10, line 45- column 11, line 36).

13. As for claim 6, Whitehouse and Bailey disclose the method of claim 5, wherein the digital signature association comprises attaching the digital signature to the postage indicium (See Whitehouse column 13, lines 55-59).

14. As for claim 7, Whitehouse and Bailey disclose the method of claim 5, wherein the digital signature is generated by applying a private key to the postage indicium (See Whitehouse column 13, lines 37-65).

Art Unit: 3621

15. As for claim 8, Whitehouse and Bailey disclose the method of claim 5, wherein the indexed self-validating postage indicium is generated within a physically secure coprocessor device (See Whitehouse column 3, lines 48-54, column 8, lines 23-62).

16. As for claim 9, Whitehouse and Bailey disclose the method of claim 1, further comprising: receiving an indexing identifier request from an end user computer; and transmitting the indexing tracking ID to the end user computer (See Whitehouse column 6, lines 30-65).

17. As for claim 10, Whitehouse and Bailey disclose the method of claim 1, further Keubert discloses ; receiving a postage indicium request containing the indexing tracking ID from a postal authority (See Whitehouse column 2, lines 1-52); retrieving the indexed postage indicium from the database based on the received indexing tracking ID (See White house column 13, lines 15-65 and column 17, line 60-column 18, line 11); and transmitting the indexed postage indicium to the postal authority (See Whitehouse column 8, line 4-column 9, line 31, column 10, line 45- column 11, line 36).

18. As for claim 11, Whitehouse and Bailey disclose the method of claim 1, further comprising: generating a plurality of postage indicia associated with a plurality of mail pieces; associating a plurality of indexing tracking IDs with the plurality of postage indicia; and storing the plurality of indexed postage indicia within the database (See Whitehouse column 6, lines 30-65).

19. As for claim 12, Whitehouse and Bailey disclose the method of claim 11, further comprising: receiving a plurality of indexing identifier requests from a plurality of end user computers; and transmitting the plurality of indexing tracking IDs to the plurality of end user computers.

20. As for claim 13, Whitehouse and Bailey disclose the method of claim 11, further comprising:

Art Unit: 3621

receiving a plurality of postage indicium requests containing the plurality of indexing tracking IDs from a postal authority (See Whitehouse column 2, lines 1-52);

retrieving the plurality of indexed postage indicia from the database based on the plurality of received indexing tracking IDs (See White house column 13, lines 15-65 and column 17, line 60- column 18, line 11); and

transmitting the plurality of indexed postage indicia to the postal authority (See Whitehouse column 8, line 4-column 9, line 31, column 10, line 45- column 11, line 36).

21. As per system claims 14-64, all the claims are substantially claiming the same limitations as claims 1-13 above, therefore, the rejections provided above applies to the current limitations of claims 14-64

Conclusion

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Kambiz Abdi** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-6702**. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30am-5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, **James Trammell** can be reached at **(571) 272-6712**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see

<http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Art Unit: 3621

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

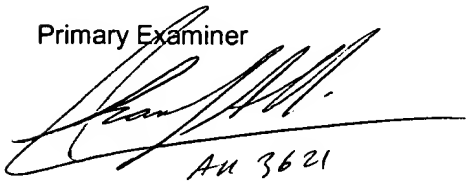
(571) 273-6702 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to the Examiner in the

Knox Building, 50 Dulany St. Alexandria, VA.

Kambiz Abdi

Primary Examiner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kambiz Abdi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right. Below the signature, the text 'AU 3621' is handwritten.

February 15, 2006